

June 2011

GALLATIN VALLEY “FARM FAIR”

**SELECTED TEACHER COMMENTS
FOLLOWING THEIR ATTENDANCE**

“Farm Fair” 2011

A+ - The Farm Fair continues to remind me that my students are “city kids” with very little ag-related experiences to draw from. It surprises me every year! My most capable academic students are “equalized” immediately. They are equally uneducated about agriculture and soak up the info. I never have behavior problems at Farm Fair because they are all engaged and learning. It is also great to have students in small groups. All can see and sit and be comfortable. On the bus ride home students were begging me to retain them next year so they could attend the Farm Fair again!

A – I thought this was the best Farm Fair yet. I have been attending for several years and thought the presenters were wonderful. Both the presenters we have had before as well as the new presenters were fabulous. I notice they spread some of the presentation areas out a bit and I thought this helped in being able to hear the presenters better. Keep up the great work and Thank YOU for putting on such a wonderful event.

A – Another fine Farm Fair experience! I appreciate the incredible organization & thought that goes into this event. Presenters, in general, seemed genuinely interested in the students and in sharing their area of expertise.

A – This is an unbelievable feat of organization. I am so impressed!

No grade – (A Thank You note received) Mr. Burkenpas, Thank you so much for inviting my students to Farm Fair. The kiddos really enjoyed it and learned a lot! It opened the door to some very wonderful conversations afterward! Sincerely,

A – Farm Fair is an amazing day for fourth graders. It’s an opportunity to learn on site. Most of my students don’t have any connection to rural life. Thank you to everyone for all your effort on behalf of our students.

No grade – We always enjoy it and the students ask if they can go again the next day!! All the presenters do a good job and work hard at presenting the info. on a 4th grade level.

A – We enjoy this every year and really appreciate the opportunity to expose the students to the farming culture! It goes along with our farm unit. Thank you for all your hard work!

“Farm Fair” 2010

A - We will continue to look forward to the Farm Fair. It was really a good day. One of the best I have attended yet. Thank you for all you do!

A+! - This experience ran like clockwork. Farm Fair has thought of everything they could possibly do to make this engaging, challenging, and comfortable for learning. Chaperones and teachers were beside themselves with how much work the Farm Fair folks have put into organizing such an incredible day. We are so lucky to have the opportunity to attend. Thank you for all you do!

A - The enthusiasm demonstrated by the presenters for their topics was palpable! It was impressive how each individual presenter collaborated with all other presenters to show connection of agriculture in Montana.

A - Got my hug from Duane and hope to be invited back again! No other trip delivers such interactive activities, quality presenters, abundance of information highly applicable to students' lives in such an organized fashion. All under the sunny skies of Montana!

A – Another fabulous learning experience. I am so impressed by the obvious high level of preparation, organization and quality of presentations!! So many overwhelmingly positive comments from students and parents. *Thank you for making this possible!

“Farm Fair” 2009

A+ – I just wanted to take the opportunity to send a BIG THANK YOU to all the people that made Farm Fair possible. It was a fantastic experience for our fourth graders who will have a bigger and better understanding and appreciation of the important part farmers and ranchers play in Montana's economy. We definitely are planning to make it part of our curriculum next year. This event gets an A+. From the minute students get off the bus they have an opportunity to learn about a wealth of agricultural related topics. The event is well organized and presenters make it very kid friendly. Each station we attended was geared to the level of a fourth grader and time to hold their attention. Our students were impressed and went home and shared the experience with their parents. At the end of the school year, students rated it as one of their favorites. Our only regret is that we have not come to Farm Fair in previous years, but you can count on Longfellow fourth graders attending the 2010 Farm Fair. We appreciate the effort that it takes to put on this event and thank each and every one of you.

A+++++++ - This was my first time coming and I was so impressed with the organization and the variety of activities and how much my students got out of the day. Thank you so much for this opportunity. Part of the fourth grade curriculum is studying Montana and its agriculture so this really brought that learning to life. Thank you for providing us with lunch and water and thank you to all the well versed and informed volunteers who obviously loved their jobs. It was a highlight of our year. We'll be back for sure.

A – I have only the highest praise for this event!...outstanding presentations by very educated and knowledgeable presenters! I am impressed by the organization and ability to keep students engaged from start to finish. They learn so much and think it's just an awesome experience! Thank you!

A – I told my wife and colleagues that I think that is the best large group presentation activity I have taken students to! Excellent!

(no grade) – See above! Looking forward to next year! Thanks for all you do. Once again, we all send a huge thank you to you, the posse of group leaders, and all of the presenters! The kids had a fabulous day of new experiences and new learning! I'd have to say it is truly one of the best events in every 4th graders' life! The orchestration of the day was perfect-not a moment was wasted and each presenter was so well prepared! Although our eyes are still stinging from the flying dust, we are incredibly appreciative of all the hard work that went into creating this memorable event!

"Farm Fair" 2008

A – The organization of the day is very good! To have that many stations with the number of kids present is quite a feat! My students learned a ton and enjoyed the day! THANKS!

A+ - Everything worked so smoothly. Thank you so much for letting us come. Thanks for making things work so well even with the rain. Very Impressive! The kids all had nothing but great things to say about the day. Thank you!!!

A – This is really a great field trip. Super educational, hands on, interesting, fun and effective. The kids and teachers and parents love it. Keep it up! Great job Duane and crew!

A - This was one of the best field trips I have ever taken. Thank you so much for the wonderful day.

A+ - Dear Duane, I can't thank you enough for providing such a wonderful and valuable experience for our 4th grade students! Coming from an ag background myself, it is so exciting to see young people enjoy learning about an important aspect of Montana's economy and heritage. Your presenters and everyone involved did an outstanding job! My class will be writing letters to you today, but I wanted to thank you immediately for a job well done!

A – I am so impressed by how well organized "Farm Fair" is! The quality and experience of presentations and presenters is well above excellent. The children absolutely love it and learn so much.

"Farm Fair" 2007

A – This is most definitely one of the best field drips in my 20 years of teaching. ALL stations are not only informative but interactive. Students are touching things, being active allowed to ask questions. The stations are also organized. Students have zero wait time in between activities. The presenters are clear and specific – armed with visual aids & props to keep students interested. The wagon ride hosts were the best - real ranchers who loved to talk about the land & water! Lunch is an absolute treat! Delicious & efficient! The facilities are outstanding. What a beautiful setting for our students to learn. My chaperones always make the comment that they have also learned during the day! I appreciate that the students don't get a lot of "stuff". They don't need "things", just activities they can learn from! The only suggestion I have: do away with the fog horn – it startles students, teachers, and presenters. How about a cow bell or dinner triangle bell - something to match the amazing tranquil setting! Thank you!

A - Thank you so much for the awesome Farm Fair. And thank you for inviting our school! I can't believe how much the community did to make such an incredible event possible. We learned so much, and in a hands-on way that made us not want to forget what we learned! The presenters gave me ideas to take back to the classroom, and worked so hard on their lessons and materials. I was really impressed. The amount of hard work that was put into this fair was really humbling. Individuals gave so much of themselves, and their time, to the children, all the way from the cooks, to the clean-up workers, to the volunteer hay-wagons and outhouses, and the hospitality area. What a wonderful gift that was to our students, their families and the community. Thank you so much,

A - Farm Fair has greatly improved in the 3 years we've been coming. Thank you for listening to our suggestions.

A – Absolutely THE BEST educational experience!! Words can't express how professional the presenters were and their positive interaction with students!! Very Impressive! High Quality!!

A – Once again my students thoroughly enjoyed the Farm Fair. Thank you for all your efforts to make this a great experience for our children. I appreciate the fact that you continue to make adjustments to make this event the best that it can be!

"Farm Fair" 2006

A – Dear Duane – I was so impressed by the level of expertise of the presenters and their ability to adapt their knowledge to the level of my students! They were excellent! My students learned so much, and so did I. The organization of the stations must have been an overwhelming task and I admire all involved for offering such an experience to my students! Thank you so much for making this day a highlight of their 4th grade year. Words can't express the depth of appreciation. The pre-and-post event activities are wonderful. Thank you

A- - Wow what an undertaking – great stations, volunteers, organization, activities, pacing – lots of information – a little overwhelming – awesome to give the city kids a chance to this, touch the animals. . . Truly Exceptional, the more I think about it.

A – outstanding day! Weather was perfect, beautifully organized site-such an authentic experience that ties with Montana history curriculum. Nice balance of shade and sun, standing and sitting-kids were comfortable.

A – well worthwhile- Dear Mr. Burkenpas and Crew, I was unable to attend the Farm Fair this year due to a long-planned personal trip the same week. However, I met with my substitute both before and after, and also heard from several of my parent chaperones. Every student and parent had nothing but praise for this event. Thank you for your many months of team planning. It paid off-with a rich curriculum and positive impact on our future farmers and community members! We appreciate your efforts. Thank you, Thank you! I had my students grade each program. Of course some would naturally be more appealing, but I asked them to think about whether it was worth learning, also. Great responses! Thanks!

A – Sandra, we really enjoyed Farm Fair. I learned a lot! (and so did the kids). Please see enclosed cards and evaluations. Thanks so much! (P.S. I enjoyed the coffee, too.) Please see kids' evaluations! Highlighted are favorites. *=ok; **=better; ***=best! I want to thank all those who were involved in the planning, preparation and execution of the Farm Fair. As a parent, it was fun to attend and learn so much. I was impressed with how smoothly things went and the total organization of the event. It was impressive! Lunch was delicious (and fast!) as well. Thank you for a wonderful time.

"Farm Fair" 2005

"A fantastic event – Thank You! Sally, Nonnie and I were all so impressed. We hope this continues." (Note: These were school principals that attended)

"This is one of the most well organized and engaging activities I have had the pleasure to attend in almost 26 yrs. of teaching. Thank you everyone!"

"I am moving to Alaska so thank you for giving me ideas on how I could get this wonderful program started elsewhere in my travels."

"I think you did a great job planning and getting everything organized, I know you must have put in a lot of time and effort. I thought that everything went very smoothly, the presentations were great and the kids seemed to be interested and excited about learning. The wagon rides were a great touch, too. I know you are already aware of improving the food line so they can eat faster. I must say the crew did a great job of preparing the food and getting the kids fed as fast as possible. I did hear one fourth grader in line ask "I wonder if they have any veggie burger?"; that's a tough one for those of us in agriculture. Great Job!"

“I thought you did a fabulous job of organizing the Farm Fair. It was a very educational opportunity for our students, many of whom do not have a connection to agriculture. I’m certainly hoping that you will continue to do this in the future.”

“I looked over the form you attached and I can say without a doubt that I would give an A to everything on there. My only comments would be that it was extremely well organized and the stations were interesting and informative. Most of all, these city kids learned a great deal and had a good time in doing so. Thank you so much for all of your hard work and considerations. Until next year, ”

“Thanks for including us in the Farm Fair this year. The kids had a great time! It was well organized and educational. I know it was a BIG job to get it all done and we appreciate your efforts!”

“If you are eating, you are involved in Agriculture.”